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SCIENCE

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THE MUTUAL RELATIONS OF MEDICAL PROGRESS AND THE PHYSICIAN¹

SOME students of literature tell us that there are but seven different stories in the world. I should be inclined to add that there were but three different addresses for an occasion like the present.

Thus it is possible to select a chapter in medical history and revive the past; or discuss some striking achievement of the day and illuminate the present; or finally, to choose for consideration problems, the solutions for which are still in the making, and thus attempt to forecast and to mould the future.

It is from these problems that I have made a selection for this occasion and I purpose to speak on the mutual relations of medical progress and the physician—for you are physicians—in the nascent state, to be sure—but like the freshly liberated hydrogen to which the adjective is most often applied—capable of vigorous activity.

To say anything really new to you upon the topic here set down would be most difficult. We are all in the position of the old philologist who, when asked to explain why he gave no lectures, replied that he had not yet been able to get together a sufficient quantity of *new* facts to fill an hour. For the most part we who speak are obliged to overlook this unpleasant circumstance and endeavor to present familiar ideas in a new form—trusting by a happy presentation to drive them home.

To be sure, all of us are wonderfully pro-

¹ Address given at the eighty-fourth annual commencement of the St. Louis University School of Medicine, June 5, 1913.